

UTENANT OF UHLANS HELLS OF WAR'S HORRORS

Work From Day to Day on
Fighting Line Is Described
in Diary.

ANTWERP WAS TAKEN

Men Who Are Constantly Under
Pay Little Heed to Rain of
Shells and Shrapnel—Frightful
Avoc, Wrought by Big Guns.

[Continued from Associated Press.]
BRUXELLES, December 2.—A lieutenant of the Belgian army, who took part in the siege of Antwerp, has sent home his diary, which a correspondent of the Associated Press has translated the most interesting portions. It has not yet appeared in the German press. After following his movements from Antwerp until the army reached Aerschot, ten miles to the northeast of Antwerp, where the main body bivouacked on the night of September 23, the diary continues, with some omissions, as follows:
Our horses were stabled in the barracks of a tavern, some of them tied to beer-taps—how idyllic! This had been frightfully shot up; it was hardly a house undamaged.
September 27.—On the march at 7 a.m., reaching the railway crossing of Aerschot, where the main body bivouacked, while the advance guard followed itself two kilometers further.
We went out two patrolling parties of twenty men each, one under the command of the first lieutenant, K., and the other under the command of the second lieutenant, L. We joined the brigade staff and rode on unconcernedly. Suddenly the first infantry began on our right, and our advanced battery was also firing. The enemy can't drop the sky, and where does that line of fire come from? The enemy is firing. Then everything was quiet. What had happened? A Belgian armored automobile, the terror of the troops, had come roaring right up, our advanced battery had fired at it, before our men knew what was happening. Then the automobile shed our main body, and could not turn back. It began to let its machine-gun play upon us. We did all we could to get it out of the way, but it struck the chauffeur in the head, whereupon the automobile rolled into two ammunition wagons, which then toppled over into the ditch on the side of the road. The enemy was firing, and two of his men were killed, and two others badly injured.

OF INFANTRY BULLETS

examined the automobile immovably. It was double armored, with a layer of asbestos between the two armor plates. It had been struck by showers of infantry bullets, but none of them had penetrated the second plate. It must have been perfect armor, but for the fact that one of our men, firing from an elevation, hit the chauffeur in the forehead. Then we had captured one of these terrible things. They are a fright-terror to all our patrolling parties. We have a most demoralizing effect on them, because these automobiles can never get in its work in time. We had only two killed and several wounded in the attack. Fortunately, we were saved from greater losses by accident. After a long discussion of the matter, we returned to bivouac.

September 28.—Encountered again in the morning at the railway crossing, where the Belgians sent a new train of two unarmored trains to collide with our ammunition train in Aerschot. It came on at a tearing speed, one behind the other. Fortunately, a switch was set for a side track, the trains were dashed to pieces without doing any harm. We turned on at Aerschot, and bivouacked on the side of the road, about a mile northwest of Aerschot, upon which the Belgians had been firing the day before. In that action we had considerable losses, including my friend, Captain F. But the night at night evacuated this place, and was of great importance for our men, as they were not killed and were not shelled from it. We marched

into the place at noon, and soon after this our heavy guns began to speak. It was the first day of the siege and bombardment of Antwerp.
"Who would have thought that we were to march into the city in twelve days? I must add that we were well provisioned from now on, notwithstanding the fact that our baggage trains, with the field kitchens, never arrived on time, for there was little stock in plenty. I usually sent out three patrolling parties, one for eggs, one for chickens and one for wine. The last two always brought in the biggest bony. At night every man in camp had his chicken in the pot, and all next day he had cold chicken with his army bread. Everywhere there was wine in abundance, especially good red wine. The only thing that we missed was our morning coffee.

"At Heyst we found a neat little cottage, in which K. and I made ourselves at home, and very soon we had a steaming chicken and red-wine punch on our table. For table music we had the prodigious thundering of the cannon. We were shelling Fort Lierre, and it was answering vigorously. As the shells never fell nearer than about 1,000 yards of us, however, we took no notice of them, but put on our nightgowns again, for a rainy, and laid ourselves down in clean bays.
"September 29.—The artillery duel continued. In the afternoon observation officers of our forty-two-centimeter mortars arrived to select positions for their shells. I climbed the ladder, ninety-eight feet high, and could see that our shells were pouncing Fort Lierre in fine style; if we only kept it up the big mortars would soon open up a free path for us. Toward evening His Excellency, Field Marshal von der Goltz (civil governor of Belgium) arrived. He told me he had heard that we had learned to read, and whether we did not have one left for him, and, lo, the hen was soon in the table, along with a can of asparagus and a bottle of champagne.
"September 30.—Marched this morning to the River Nethe to occupy and protect the bridge at Hellebrug. K. and I were entrusted with a patrol and the Nethe to the Hellebrug and Bavel, where we had learned to read, and whether we did not have one left for him, and, lo, the hen was soon in the table, along with a can of asparagus and a bottle of champagne.

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"October 1.—Received the honorable commission to ride again to Bavel to see whether it was clear of the enemy, and, if possible, to make observations from the church tower. Well, those fellows, said to myself, 'probably got enough yesterday. A Heykant I saw that the telephone wires, destroyed yesterday, had been restored. I sent forward a 'noncom' with five men about 100 yards ahead and followed after at the head of my twenty Uhlans. Everything seemed to be going well until the vanguard party was within fifty paces of the first houses of Bavel. Then all at once a terrific infantry fire opened. The 'noncom' and another man dropped.
"The rest of us were out in the open field, scarcely 150 paces from the enemy, whom we could see standing behind a hedge. I gave the order to the rear, open order, march! Behind the nearest houses I called a halt, and we prepared to dismount and begin the fight, but at this moment we were fired upon from the rear, from Heykant. The fellows had calmly permitted us to pass through that village, in order afterward to fire upon us from two sides. There were ditches

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right and left, so there could be no retreat toward the side. We had to dash through. After passing Heykant, we gathered in a forest.

"All my men answered to their names except the two mentioned, and they fell only fifty paces from the enemy. I inquired and was told that the two were dead. An Uhlan saluted and said: 'Herr Lieutenant, I will not leave the corporal lying there. Let me ride back and get him.' I lifted my hat in spirit, before this hero, who wanted to ride back into the fire of the enemy, and said a silent prayer for his safety. Yes, I said, a second man followed him. After ten minutes they returned with the corporal and the Uhlan. They had both fallen without being hit. All four are sure to get back to Hellebrug.
"We got back to Hellebrug, where Lieutenant K. and the infantry officers were happy to welcome us. I can't understand yet how those Belgians were able to shoot so badly. Not to hit one cavalryman out of twenty-five at fifty and 300 paces is certainly an artistic achievement. At the same time another patrolling party, under Lieutenant H., was fired upon, also at a very short distance, and the result was two dead horses.
"I reported at once to the brigade and asked that the church tower, which seemed to us as an observation lookout by the Belgian artillery, be shelled. On the following day two field howitzers fired twelve shots at it. This started a general confusion in Bavel, and the tower disappeared. That was a great satisfaction. To be fired upon twice from one village was just enough. We made our quarters for the night at Hellebrug, where we had grown too dangerous for our horses.
"K. and I found good quarters in the villa of a physician. Moreover, we requisitioned two shotguns, and the next morning we went to Bavel. I had been keeping a setter with a baggage train for some days. There was not a living soul in all this region, but starving dogs and livestock were running loose everywhere.
"October 2.—Patrols were sent out early, but I took a rest, having had enough work on the previous days. However, K. and I, and a member of the usual staff of bugles, and an orderly, rode to Hellebrug, without seeing anything of the enemy. Night quarters were again at Hellebrug.

HEADQUARTERS STAFF

HAS A NARROW ESCAPE

"October 3.—Three forts have already fallen. We again sent out three patrols; all got under the enemy's fire, but returned without loss. Toward evening we all rode to headquarters to report to His Excellency. Scarcely arrived there, the enemy's shells began to drop around us. The staff had hardly got out of the house when a shell crashed through the roof. The location of the headquarters had been revealed to the Belgians by escaped prisoners. We faced about in a hurry and left our unfinished reports till the morning. Quarters were again at Hellebrug, with splendid fruit and walnuts in our garden.
"October 4.—With the First Battalion and First Battery, we marched against Fort Kessel, which was still occupied by the enemy. We made no attack and returned to Hellebrug.
"October 5.—Fort Kessel kept silence during the night. Yesterday's detachment again sent forward to storm it. We led till we reached the open fields around the fort. When the infantry advanced in firing lines. Scarcely did it reach the open fields, however, when the Belgians showed up with shrapnel from Fort Brochem. Shell after shell exploded in their ranks, but they occupied Fort Kessel all the same. The enemy's shrapnel had little effect. For three hours they hadled upon our infantry, and the result: two wounded men. Our squadron remained behind in the woods, K. and I watching from its edge, while the shrapnels were falling around the infantry scarcely 100 yards from us. We stood there fully two hours with no shell dropping nearer to us than about 100 yards.
"Finally we started back to our squadron, and hardly taken 10 steps when a shell exploded at the spot where we had been standing. What a happy escape. (We had exact-

ly the same experience, moreover, on the following day.)

"October 6.—K. and I were ordered to reconnoitre Fort Bochem, which is to be shelled by our 42-centimeter mortars from Antwerp, in a general offensive from Antwerp. In an ancient linden tree on a slight elevation we found a deserted Belgian observation platform. We quickly climbed to it.
"A wonderful sight—the fort lay about 1,300 yards before us, every Belgian soldier plainly visible through the glasses, splendid place. Punctually at 8 o'clock the 42-centimeter guns began to talk. The first two short tramped 1,500 feet short. We announced the dead once. Every weight minutes two shells were thrown. The next two dropped nearer, but not in the fort. Again an urgent signal, after which every shot hit. We took note of every one, and continued to report. The fort replied in the evening, but our presence in the tree was not yet discovered. We reported our old linden, but taking the precaution of sending our men and horses further back. At 1:30 the last shot was fired. The Belgians appeared to have discovered our point of observation, and three shells whizzed by us. We got down and galloped nearest to the fort. Later everything became quiet, and after an hour we remounted the old linden, taking the precaution of sending our men and horses further back. 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